



Department of Justice

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168 MONTH SENTENCE FOR CRYSTAL METH DEALER

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that SABINO AVELLANEDA ARZATE (a.k.a. "PRIMO"), 39, of Buford, Georgia, was sentenced to 168 months imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge Richard L. Young following his guilty plea to conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine. This case was the result of a four month investigation led by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The investigation began on November 18, 2005, when Evansville Police Department officers received a tip that two people were distributing methamphetamine from a presidential suite inside the Casino Aztar. A subsequent search of the suite yielded approximately five pounds of crystal methamphetamine. Five pounds of crystal methamphetamine has a street value in southern Indiana in excess of two hundred thousand dollars. DEA then launched an investigation to determine the source of supply of the crystal methamphetamine. After a several month investigation, ARZATE and six others were indicted in the Southern District of Indiana for methamphetamine trafficking. ARZATE resided in the Atlanta, Georgia area and was the source of supply for the methamphetamine. Within a five month time frame, ARZATE distributed in excess of forty (40) pounds of "crystal" methamphetamine in Southern Indiana and Western Kentucky. The two persons distributing from the hotel suite, Chad Lynn and Jamie Lopez, were sentenced to 97 months and 70 months, respectively, in November, 2006.

According to Assistant United State Attorney Matthias D. Onderak, who prosecuted the case for the United States, Judge Young also imposed 5 years supervised release following Arzate's release from imprisonment.

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